

To: Richard V. Scali: Commissioner

From Andrea M. Boyer: Chief Licensing Investigator

RE: City Council Request of Noise Violations from January 2007-June 2008

<u>TYPE OF VIOLATION</u>	<u>TOTAL NUMBER</u>
HVAC	30
Construction	16
Mechanical	12
Direct Vent	5
Leaf Blower	17
One-Day Events	6
Loud Music	5
Deliveries	6
Disposal Co./Dumpster	14
Misc. Noise	12
Number of telephone or counter inquiries where formal complaints were not filed	216

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	
HVAC	123 RIVER STREET	5/10/2008	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	105 Coolidge Hill	9/18/2008	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	1 St Gerard Street	8/9/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	Radcliff/Harvard Library Garden Street	1/10/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	14 Concord Avenue	3/27/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	68 Avon Hill Avenue	7/27/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	6 Berkeley St	7/23/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	Hoffa's /Mt Auburn Street	2/26/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	Middlesex Court House Spring Street	1/2/2008	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	63 Otis Street	7/25/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	219 Pearl Street	6/13/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	30 Market Street	8/8/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	1 Hollis Street	6/18/2008	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	90 Sherman Street	6/27/2008	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	57 Otis Street	5/9/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	1-2 Reed Street	6/11/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	10 Fawcett Street	6/12/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	B&G Sheet Metal Co.	1/11/1900	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	Charter School	9/19/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	Larch Road	8/29/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	991 Massachusetts Avenue	8/9/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	28 Hawthorne Street	5/17/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	109 Museum Street	4/11/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	Carberry's	4/23/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	565 Memorial Drive	3/29/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	2 Chestnut Street	3/8/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	250 Bent Street	7/23/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	675 Mt. Auburn Street	1/6/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	124 Mt Auburn Street	6/13/2008	Thermostat controlled cycle
HVAC	101 Rodger Street	7/19/2007	Thermostat controlled cycle

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Construction / Pile Driving-Excavation	163 Brattle Street	4/13/2007	7:00a.m.-6:00p.m.
Construction / Trucking	Marbardy 50 Mooney Street	5/23/2007	1:30a.m-5:00a.m.
Construction / Jackhammering	45B Museum Street	9/21/2007	Periodic Throughout day
Construction / Early start of work	1657 Cambridge Street	5/25/2007	5:30 a.m.
Construction / Early start of work	Windsor Street	8/22/2007	6:00 a.m.
Construction / Renovation-Tools	Harvard Garden & Shepard	6/17/2008	Periodic Throughout day
Construction / Track work	Alewife T-Station	5/14/2008	1:00 a.m.
Construction / Renovation-Tools	106 Winthrop	5/21/2008	Periodic Throughout day
Construction / Renovation-Tools	60 Fresh Pond Parkway	4/23/2008	Periodic Throughout day
Construction / Cement Truck	58B Hammond Street	12/19/2007	Consistent Throughout day
Construction/ Trucking	Walden St.& Richdale Ave.	3/13/2007	6:00 a.m.
Construction / Renovation-Tools	Franklin St. & Soden	11/14/2007	Periodic Throughout day
Construction / Back Hoe	Harvard Divinity School	10/9/2007	7:30 a.m.
Construction / Jackhammering	Storrow Drive & Western Ave	9/12/2007	11:00 p.m.
Construction / Tool Compressor	18 Center Street	8/21/2007	Periodic Throughout day
Construction / Tool Compressor	74 Avon Hill	6/27/2007	Periodic Throughout day

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<i>(Mechanical Noise)</i>			
Electrical Box	NSTAR-Roberts Rd	6/12/2007	Intermittent Cycle
Generator	State Street- 138 Mt. Auburn	4/5/2007	Power outages
Box Refrigeration Truck	Whole Food- Prospect St.	11/20/2007	24/7
Generator	Cambridgeport School 89 Elm	12/5/2007	Power outages
Generator	Middlesex Courthouse	8/22/2007	24/7
Sprinkler system	16 Farrar St	5/30/2008	5:00 a.m.
Generator	63 Avon Hill Rd.	5/7/2008	Power outages
Generator	575 Mt. Auburn St	3/4/2008	Power outages
Heat Pump	3-5 Irving Terrace	3/5/2008	Intermittent Cycle
Generator	Shaw's Porter Square	7/30/2007	Power outages
Generator	1500 Mass. Ave.	6/20/2007	Power outages
Compressor/Garage Repair	Hondar House	6/26/2007	Tools

<u>TYPE</u> (Direct Vent)	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Boiler Vent	46 Chilton St.	10/24/2007	Intermittent heat cycle
Boiler Vent	287 Harvard St.	5/28/2008	Intermittent heat cycle
Boiler Vent	52 Lee St.	7/11/2007	Intermittent heat cycle
Boiler Vent	6 Magnolia St.	5/11/2007	Intermittent heat cycle
Boiler Vent	Blakesley St.	6/20/2007	Intermittent heat cycle

<u>TYPE</u> (Leaf Blower)	<u>Location</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Prohibited date or time	29 Essex Street	1/8/2008	6:15 a.m.
Prohibited date or time	47 Homer Street	3/29/2008	5:17 p.m.
Prohibited date or time	Humbolt Street	4/21/2008	5:05 p.m.
Prohibited date or time	Shepard Street	5/15/2008	5:58 p.m.
Unlicensed Company	Gold Landscaping	3/18/2008	N/A
Prohibited date or time	14 Concord Ave.	3/7/2008	11:00 a.m.
Prohibited date or time	13 Humbolt Ave.	3/2/2008	10:00a.m.
Unlicensed Company	2010 Mass. ave.	6/25/2008	8:30 a.m. + Prohibited date and time
Unlicensed Company	J.P. White	6/21/2008	12:25 p.m. + Prohibited date and time
Using more than one blower	48 Fayerweather	6/15/2008	3:43 p.m.
Unlicensed Company	Steve's Landscaping	6/18/2008	10:15 a.m. +Prohibited date and time
Prohibited date or time	MIT	6/25/2008	10:00 a.m.
Prohibited date or time	266 Harvard Street	6/25/2008	9:15 a.m.
Prohibited date or time	14 Roosevelt Towers	6/25/2008	3:15 p.m.
Prohibited date or time	6 Follen Street	6/24 2008	1:00 p.m.
Prohibited date or time	7 Longfellow Park	6/26/2008	8:00 a.m.
Prohibited date or time	8 Williard Street	6/27/2008	9:30 a.m.

<u>TYPE</u> (One-day events)	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Loud Music	Hoops for Health	6/23/2007	1:00-6:00 p.m.
Loud Music	Holy Trinity Armenian	9/22/2007	7:00 p.m.
Bells and Chimes	St. Anthony's Fest.	4/26/2008	Daytime
Loud Music	Lesley College Quad	4/19/2008	Daytime
Loud Music	Caribbean Carnival	8/29/2007	Daytime
Unlicensed Event	YWCA 7 Temple St.	4/19/2008	Nighttime

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Loud Music	90 Norfolk St.	3/18/2008	1:00-4:00 a.m. Weekends (police report)
Loud Music	186 Hampshire St.	2/19/2008	1:50-2:50 a.m. Weekends (police report)
Loud Music	Hess Gas Station Mass. Ave.	4/11/2008	Daytime
Loud Music	Radio on Santa Lucia property	6/4/2007	Daytime
Loud Music	Weekend parties on Follen St.	2/22/2007	3:00 a.m.

<u>TYPE</u> (Deliveries/fork lift)	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
O2 tanks + bakery	Mt Auburn Hospital	6/2/2008	5:45 a.m.
Supplies	Biogen Cardinal Mederios	4/12/2008	6:00 a.m.
Food	Whole Foods Prospect St.	2/22/2008	5:30 a.m.
Supplies	Kendal Square	11/1/2007	6:15 a.m.
Supplies	Porter Exchange	3/25/2008	4:00 a.m.
Pea Pod Food	18-26 Chauncy St.	3/27/2007	11:00 p.m.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Dumpster	Msg O'Brien Hwy	6/3/2008	3:30 a.m.
Dumpster	5 Gerry St	5/28/2008	5:20 a.m.
Dumpster	Roberts Road	5/15/2008	5:30 a.m.
Dumpster	Putman Ave	4/29/2008	6:15 a.m.
Dumpster	140-142 Mt. Auburn St	4/24/2008	4:20 a.m.
Dumpster	1830 Mass. Ave.	5/3/2008	7:15 a.m.
Dumpster	Matignon Rd	3/18/2008	6:15 a.m.
Dumpster	99 Erie St.	11/12/2007	4:00 a.m.
Dumpster	Prescott St.	10/11/2007	6:00 a.m.
Dumpster	34 Second St.	10/18/2007	5:30 a.m.
Dumpster	Davenport St.	9/13/2007	5:30 a.m.
Dumpster	16-18 Ware St.	8/14/2007	4:55 a.m.
Dumpster	8 Grant St.	5/29/2007	5:45 a.m.
Dumpster	7 Linnean St.	4/11/2007	4:35 a.m.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
<i>(Misc. Noise)</i>			
Parrot	36 Eustis St.	7/26/2007	Periodic throughout day
Children Playing	Cambridge Children's Center	12/19/2007	Recess
Buses/speaker	Locke St.	12/19/2007	Announcement at bus stop location
Apartment Noise	Elm St.	9/5/2007	Periodic jumping/stomping on floor
Bullhorn & Drums	Benjamin Benecker School	9/4/2007	Early morning
Architectural	1050 Mass. Ave.	7/5/2007	Laser glass cutter
Horn	611 Green St	6/18/2007	Random during day
Car wash/phone	2013 Mass. Ave.	4/17/2007	Periodic outdoor speaker phone
Idling truck engine	Museum Way	3/19/2007	4:00 a.m
Wind Chimes	19 Warden St.	1/4/2007	When wind blows
MBTA	State property/Somerville Line	1/10/2007	Nighttime cleaning of train cars
Truck Sweeper	Trader Joe's/Micro Center	2/15/2008	10:00-10:30 p.m.

Response to Council Order:

Analysis of Noise Calls 1/1/07-6/30/08

In response to a request from the City Council the Crime Analysis Unit of the Cambridge Police Department has reviewed noise complaints for 18 months from 1/1/07 to 6/30/08. The complaints include the following: construction, dumpster, equipment, idling, leaf blower, music, motor vehicle alarm, barking dogs, and other. Overall, when comparing the previous 18 months (7/1/05-12/31/06) to those in question, it was found that noise complaints have decreased by 7% or 314 incidents.

	Noise Construction	Noise Dumpster	Noise Equipment	Noise Idling	Noise Leaf Blower	Noise Music	Noise Other	MV Alarm	Barking Dog	Total
<i>East Cambridge</i>	40	0	7	10	0	162	126	24	7	376
<i>MIT</i>	7	2	0	1	0	20	4	2	0	36
<i>Inman Harrington</i>	7	1	3	8	0	180	157	21	4	381
<i>Area 4</i>	12	1	6	3	0	287	207	28	7	551
<i>Cambridgeport</i>	45	8	14	28	0	216	187	31	13	542
<i>Mid Cambridge</i>	36	9	9	22	3	228	137	39	16	499
<i>Riverside</i>	24	4	10	14	2	301	192	26	3	576
<i>Agassiz</i>	12	0	6	7	0	56	44	15	3	143
<i>Peabody</i>	14	7	7	12	4	103	100	44	15	306
<i>West Cambridge</i>	24	1	7	16	1	77	82	33	4	245
<i>North Cambridge</i>	19	1	16	17	4	104	134	24	12	331
<i>Highlands</i>	6	0	1	4	0	5	7	2	4	29
<i>Strawberry Hills</i>	5	0	5	4	2	13	24	2	3	58
Total	251	34	91	146	16	1752	1401	291	91	4073

CONSTRUCTION HOT SPOTS

There were 251 complaints for noise related to construction in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting 6% of the total complaints. This is down 76 incidents when compared to the prior 18 months, resulting in a 23% decrease. **East Cambridge and Cambridgeport** are the hot spots with 40+ calls being received. In East Cambridge there were two spots that received numerous calls, Second St (around courthouse) and North Point Blvd. On Second St there were calls for beginning work too early on weekends, staying too late during the week and residents complaining of the work affecting their home (shaking, loudness) in all cases the company or resident was placated and work continued. On North Point Blvd calls were received in the morning and at night and in one case over night work had been permitted by the manager for three weeks. In Cambridgeport, a construction site on River St received a number of calls for work being started too early in the morning on weekends.

DUMPSTER HOT SPOTS

There were 34 complaints for noise related to dumpsters in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for less than 1% of the total complaints. This is up 10 incidents when compared to

the prior 18 months, resulting in a 42% increase. The hot spot area is **Mid Cambridge**, which logged the highest number of calls at 9. Upon analyzing these 9 calls it was found that they all occurred from 4:30 am to 6:45 am and that Harvard St and Ellery St accounted for a majority of the calls. Many were found to be unfounded and a few were garbage trucks emptying bins and leaving.

EQUIPMENT HOT SPOTS

There were 91 complaints for noise related to equipment in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for 2% of the total complaints. This is up by only 1 incident when compared to the prior 18 months and has remained relatively constant for the past few years. The hot spot areas are **Cambridgeport and North Cambridge**, which logged the highest numbers of calls at 14 and 16 respectively. Upon analyzing the Cambridgeport calls it was found that they occurred from 5:15 am to 8:30 am or from 18:30 pm to 23:30 pm and were regarding mainly construction equipment. One address called 4 times throughout 2007, accounting for 29% of Cambridgeport's calls. As expected, warmer months saw more complaints as more outdoors work is possible and in some instances it was noted that the noisy party was in violation of the noise ordinance. In North Cambridge the complaints were focused from 8:30 pm to 2:00 am with a number of them taking place during the winter and focusing on snow removal. Three residences accounted for 8 of the calls or 50% of the total.

IDLING

There were 146 complaints for noise related to idling in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for 4% of the total complaints. This is up by 116 incidents or 387% when compared to the prior 18 months. The hot spot areas are **Cambridgeport and Mid Cambridge**, which logged the highest numbers of calls at 28 and 22 respectively. In Cambridgeport a number of the calls occurred late at night and into the early morning hours of trucks making deliveries, performing construction, and tour buses outside of bars. Pleasant St, Green St, and Brookline St logged the highest number of calls and the majority of complaints were found to have a valid reason for idling. In Mid Cambridge the majority of calls came in from Broadway and Cambridge St during the daytime. Almost all of the calls in Mid Cambridge were of delivery trucks idling. However, upon responding to the calls about 40% of the time officers were not able to find a vehicle or it had already been shut off.

LEAF BLOWER

There were 16 noise complaints for leaf blowers since March 1, 2008 when the city passed an ordinance with restrictions; prior to the ordinance passing leaf blower complaints were filed under equipment or other. These 16 complaints accounted for less than 1% of the total and only 6 Cambridge neighborhoods filed a report.

MUSIC

There were 1752 complaints for noise related to music in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for 43% of all complaints. This is down by 88 incidents when compared to the prior 18 months, which translates to a 5% decrease. There were four neighborhoods that received more than 200 calls for music: **Area 4, Cambridgeport, Mid Cambridge and Riverside** all of which intersect in Central Sq. The following complaints occurred often at certain establishments throughout these neighborhoods. In Area 4 in 2008 there were a number of calls about an elderly

housing area on Cherry St regarding loud TVs and music. Two nearby residences on Norfolk St have received numerous complaints for loud parties going until early hours in the morning. In Cambridgeport there were multiple calls regarding loud parties until early morning hours on the following streets: Brookline St, Landsdowne St, and Sidney St. In Mid Cambridge there have also been several loud parties at multiple locations: 1400 block of Cambridge St (throughout the year until 4:00 am), Ellery St (people inside and outside, mostly during the Spring), Fayette St (winter time until 3:00 am), Hampshire St (given citations for parties), Harvard St (frat house, loud parties during the spring), 900 block of Mass Ave (loud parties with speakers out on balconies, very late year round), and Trowbridge St (multiple addresses with loud parties, management has contacted police in the past). The YWCA has logged complaints of bands, music and festivals throughout the year from 10:00 pm to 12:30 am. In Riverside which includes Harvard Sq. the complaints have focused more on business establishments such as the Western Front, Daedlaus, the Delphic Club, Harvard Lampoon and the YMCA. The calls are centered on music or large groups exiting the businesses. the most calls were related to the Harvard Lampoon.

OTHER

There were 1401 complaints for noise/other in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for 34% of the total number of complaints. This is down by 282 incidents when compared to the prior 18 months, which translates to a 17% decrease. The two neighborhoods that received the highest number of calls pertaining to miscellaneous noise violations were **Cambridgeport and Mid Cambridge**. Cambridgeport had 207 calls with certain areas logging multiple calls for the same reason throughout the year. On Allston St in summer of 2007 there were multiple calls for kids playing in the park late at night from 10:00 pm – 4:00 am. At a residence on Green St and Landsdowne St there have been several loud parties which have been asked to quiet down each time and refuse, as a result multiple calls have been received regarding these locations. In April and May on Lawrence St there were 20 calls received for kids playing basketball in the park and hanging out. On Upton St from 9:00 pm – 2:00 am there were complaints of kids being loud in the Spring and Fall. In Mid Cambridge a number of complaints were received from Inman St and Amory St for St Marys Church playground for kids being loud in the Spring and the Fall from 9:00 – 1:00am. The Longfellow School received complaints for kids playing basketball past midnight in the summer. Residences on Ellery St and Trowbridge St logged multiple complaints during the summer months for loud parties.

MV ALARM

There were 293 complaints for noise related to car alarms in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for 7% of the total number of complaints. This is down by 100 incidents when compared to the prior 18 months, which translates to a 26% decrease. The hot spot area is **Peabody**, which logged the highest number of calls at 44. The calls regarding car alarms most frequently occur late at night and into the early morning hours when people are sleeping. A significant number of calls were repeated, as the alarms continued to go off: 13 incidents resulted in 31 calls or 70% of all the calls in Peabody came from 13 incidents. In many of the calls officers were unable to locate the car in question and in two incidents the car was towed because the owner could not be located.

BARKING DOG

There were 91 complaints for noise related to dogs barking in 2007 and the first 6 months of 2008 accounting for 2% of the total number of complaints. This is down by 2 incidents when compared to the prior 18 months, meaning that barking dog complaints are steady and most likely continue to involve the same tenants. Although Mid Cambridge received one more call than **Peabody**, the calls in Mid Cambridge were all centered around one address. The majority of the calls were received during the warm months when one could leave a dog outside. The Animal Control officer was contacted in a few incidents but for the most part owners were compliant and brought the dog inside upon request. Those streets with numerous complaints include Field St, Concord Ave, and Walden St.